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A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

PORT MEDICAL OFFICER

On the Health of the Port of Poole

FOR THE YEAR

1 9 5 3.

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PART II.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1953  
(acting as Port Health Authority)

Chairman:

Alderman D.A. Haynes J.P.

Vice Chairman:

Councillor F.V. Crawshaw.

Aldermen:

S. D. Ballam  
J. Bright J.P.

A.B. Haynes J.P.  
Miss M.M. Llewellyn J.P.

Councillors.

L.W. Chisman.	L.J. Matchan.
Mrs J.D. Coles	S.D. Pollard.
R.C. Hart	S.J. Stout.
Mrs E.M. Dickinson J.P.	Mrs A. Willis.

OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Clerk to the Port Health Authority;  
WILSON KENYON, Town Clerk.

Medical Officer of Health:  
JAMES HUTTON M.D., D.P.H.,

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:  
JAMES A. SINCLAIR M.B., D.P.H.,

Port Sanitary Inspector:  
ROBERT LEGGAT, F.S.I.A.

Deputy Port Sanitary Inspector:  
C.A. TRIM. Cert, R.S.I.

Rodent Officer:  
G.W. SKEGGS.

Office Clerk:  
MRS B. BURCHETT.

On the 1st of January 1881, the  
following was the result of the

election of the members of the  
Council of the University of

Cambridge for the year  
1880-81, viz. the following

Members

Mr. J. C. Mansel Pleydell  
Mr. J. C. Mansel Pleydell

Mr. J. C. Mansel Pleydell  
Mr. J. C. Mansel Pleydell

Mr. J. C. Mansel Pleydell

Mr. J. C. Mansel Pleydell	Mr. J. C. Mansel Pleydell
Mr. J. C. Mansel Pleydell	Mr. J. C. Mansel Pleydell
Mr. J. C. Mansel Pleydell	Mr. J. C. Mansel Pleydell
Mr. J. C. Mansel Pleydell	Mr. J. C. Mansel Pleydell

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Mr. J. C. Mansel Pleydell

Mr. J. C. Mansel Pleydell

Mr. J. C. Mansel Pleydell



## PREFACE

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee,  
acting as the Port Health Authority.

I submit for your information and consideration my Annual  
Report as Port Medical Officer of Health for the year 1953,

The report is made in accordance with Article 17 (5) of the  
Sanitary Officers (outside London) Regulations 1935 and 1951.  
As a result of the Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1949,  
the Minister of Health has reviewed the form and scope of the  
Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health and in Port Form 20  
enclosed with Circular 33/52 dated 6th November, 1952, he  
prescribes the form and sequence which the reports should follow.

One innovation in the requirements of the Minister is that  
the information required by Sections I,V,VI,VIII, XIV, XV and XVI  
(all marked with an asterisk), which has been given in an earlier  
report and has not since changed, need not be repeated every year.  
A recapitulation of all the information should be made in the  
reports for 1952 and 1955 and thereafter quinquennially. For the  
intermediate years, only the changes which have occurred during  
the year covered by the report need be mentioned in those sections.

In presenting this report I have pleasure in taking the  
opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Harbour Master, Captain  
C.H.Horn, and the Officers of H.M. Customs for their ready co-  
operation and help during the year, and to the Port Sanitary  
Inspector, Mr R.Leggat and his Deputy, Mr C.A.Trim, for their  
willing assistance and interest in the work.

Yours faithfully,

JAMES HUTTON,

Port Medical Officer of Health.

March, 1954.

Received of the Treasurer of the County of ... the sum of ...

for the purchase of ...

... of the ...

... of the ...

... of the ...

Witness my hand and seal this ... day of ...

...

...



## THE PORT OF POOLE

### Constitution of the Port Health Authority.

The Port was permanently constituted a Port Sanitary Authority by an order of the Local Government Board dated 21st September, 1887, and an amending order dated 27th February, 1909.

The Port Health Authority is the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough, acting by the Council.

### Limits of Jurisdiction.

The present limits of jurisdiction were fixed in 1909, as follows:-

"The jurisdiction of the said Port Sanitary Authority shall extend to so much of the said Port of Poole as lies to the westward of a straight line drawn across the mouth of Poole Harbour from the easternmost point of North Haven to the easternmost point of South Haven; together with the waters of the said port within such limits, and the place or places for the time being appointed as the Customs Boarding Station or Stations for such part of the said Port, and every other place for the time being appointed for the mooring or anchoring of ships for such part of the said port, under any regulations for the prevention of the spread of disease issued under the authority of the statutes in that behalf; and the watersides of the District of the said Port Sanitary Authority constituted as aforesaid, and the docks, basins, harbours, creeks, rivers, channels, roads, bays and streams belonging to that part of the said Port for which such Authority is constituted as aforesaid"





## Port Facilities

Poole is chiefly a cargo port, the majority of the vessels being engaged in the coastal transport of coal, oil and petrol, though there is also a regular traffic in timber from continental countries. During the summer the port is the base for pleasure steamers operating between the local seaside resorts, but this is the only passenger traffic. Fishing is still carried on from the port, though only during the sprat season are landings heavy. The harbour is one of the great yachting centres of Britain, and the building, servicing and repair of yachts and other boats is one of the industries of the port.

The public quay accommodation consists of 3,000 feet frontage, i.e.

Hamworthy Quay	500 feet at 15ft low water ordinary tide.
Town Quay	1000 feet at 16ft " " " "
	1000 feet at 15 to 10ft " " "
	500 feet shallow berthing (for yachts)

There are also some 3,500 feet of private wharves, including 1,000 feet of new wharfing constructed in 1950 by the British Electricity Authority for the new power station, Hamworthy. All the public quays are serviced by railways. Unloading equipment consists of one 3-ton electric travelling crane belonging to the Harbour Commissioners and four electric cranes and two steam cranes belonging to private firms. There are, in addition, two privately-owned coal transporters each capable of dealing with between 1,000 and 1,200 tons of coal per day. Ship repairing facilities include seven yards capable of carrying out repairs to ships and yachts.

There is in the harbour an extensive area of safe anchorage. The depth of the water at the Harbour Bar is 13 feet at mean low water springs and 19 feet at mean high water springs and both flood and ebb tides run at about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a knot. The channels are kept dredged and ships drawing 16 feet can enter the Port at high tides.

The telegraph address of the Port Health Authority is registered as "Portelth Poole".

Address and telephone number of Medical Officer of Health:

Office: Public Health Department, Municipal Buildings, Poole.  
Poole 393.

Home: 23, Pearce Avenue, Parkstone, Dorset. Parkstone 4140.





x 1. STAFF.

The only change in staff is Mrs.B.Burchett, office clerk (clerk in Public Health Department,Borough of Poole) appointed 9/2/53 in place of Miss Tapper - resigned 1/10/52)

II. AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT DURING THE YEAR

Table B.

Ships from.	Number.	Tonnage.	Number inspected		Number of ships, reported as having, or having had during the voyage,infectious disease on board.
			By the Med. Officer of Health.	By the Sanitary Inspector	
Foreign Ports.	x 141	46,963	-	86	Nil
Coastwise.	1100	470,709	-	118	Nil
Total.	1241	517,672	-	204	Nil

x Does not include 174 yachts with total tonnage of 2,878

III. CHARACTER OF SHIPPING AND TRADE DURING THE YEAR.

Table C.

Passenger Traffic

Number of passengers INWARDS - Nil

Number of passengers OUTWARDS - Nil

Cargo Traffic

Principal IMPORTS - Timber, stone, coal, animal feeding stuffs, fertilizers, fresh vegetables.

Principal EXPORTS - China clay, spent oxide, ball clay.

Principal ports from which ships arrive

Channel Isles, French, Scandanavian and Baltic ports.

IV. INLAND BARGE TRAFFIC.

There is no inland barge traffic in the port.

x V. WATER SUPPLY.

1. Source of supply for the district and shipping  
The water supply for the port and shipping is that from the town mains provided by the Poole Waterworks Undertaking from hydrants on the quays. It is a softened, filtered and chlorinated water of high bacterial purity.





\* V. WATER SUPPLY (Contd)

2. Reports of tests for contamination.

The supply was sampled every two or three days throughout the year and every sample was reported as "Class I" - highly satisfactory"

17 samples of water supplies to ships using the port regularly were taken during the year for bacteriological examination. 16 were reported as "Class I" and one as "Class IV." In the latter case the ships tanks were cleaned and disinfected and subsequent samples were satisfactory.

3. Precautions taken against contamination of hydrants and hosepipes.

Hydrants and hoses are cleansed and flushed and connections disinfected regularly by the Waterworks Undertaking and instructions have been issued that all hydrants and hoses must be cleansed and flushed before each use.

4. Number and sanitary condition of water boats, and power of control by the Authority.

One small private water boat is in use in the harbour during the summer months for the supply of water to small yachts.

Three samples of water obtained from the water boat during the season were reported as "Class I"

\* VI. PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS 1952.

No change

VII. SMALLPOX.

1. Name of Isolation Hospital to which smallpox cases are sent from the district.

Crabwood Smallpox Hospital, Nr. Winchester, Hants.

2. Arrangements for transport of such cases to that hospital.

Transport of smallpox cases would be carried out by the Ambulance Service of the Dorset County Council operating from the Poole Ambulance Depot.

The vaccinal state of the 13 ambulance personnel at this depot is that 7 were last vaccinated in 1953, 3 in 1952, 1 in 1951, 1 in 1949 and one has refused vaccination.

3. Names of smallpox consultants available.

Dr. George Chesney, Poole.

4. Facilities for laboratory diagnosis of smallpox.

Suspected material sent to

Dr. F.O. McCallum,

Virus Reference Laboratory,

Central Public Health Laboratory,

Colindale, London N.W.9.

Tel: No. Colindale 6041.







# VIII. VENEREAL DISEASE

No change.

## IX. CASES OF NOTIFIABLE AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES ON SHIPS

Table D.

Category.	Disease.	Number of cases during the Year.		Number of Ships concerned.
		Passengers.	Crew.	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases landed from other ships.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

X. OBSERVATIONS ON THE OCCURRENCE OF MALARIA IN SHIPS  
None

XI. MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST SHIPS INFECTED WITH OR SUSPECTED FOR PLAGUE.  
None necessary

XII. MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS.

Poole is a "Designated Approved Port" for the issue of Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates in accordance with Article 17 of the International Sanitary Regulations, 1951, and Articles 19, 20 and 21 of the Port Health(Ships) Regulations, 1952, are enforced in the Port. Both the Port Sanitary Inspector and the Deputy Port Sanitary Inspector have been trained in deratisation procedure.

1. During routine inspections of ships by the Port Sanitary Inspectors masters and crew are interrogated as to the presence of rats and ships in general and crews' quarters in particular are examined for evidence of infestation. Where evidence is found or suspected a detailed search of the ship (including the holds) is made by the Rodent Officer who endeavours to secure one or more rats for bacteriological and pathological examination.





Whenever a Deratting or Deratting Exemption Certificate is found to be out of date, or a certificate is needed, a detailed inspection and search of the ship is carried out jointly by the Port Sanitary Inspector and the Rodent Officer before a certificate is issued or renewed. A similar procedure is adopted before the issue or renewal of Rodent Control Certificates for coastal ships.

- (2) Bacteriological and pathological examinations of rodents are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory, Bournemouth, (Director G.J.G.King, M.B., B.Ch.) In no instance was evidence of rats found on a ship inspected in the port during the year, but four brown rats obtained from warehouses in the port area were submitted for bacteriological and pathological examination during the year. None showed any evidence of rodent plague infection.
- (3) Small infestations of rats on ships are dealt with directly by the Rodent Officer using standard trapping and baiting methods. Major infestations requiring large scale fumigations are carried out by any one of the commercial contractors on the Authority's list, the arrangements being made direct by the owners or agents.
- (4) Every effort is made by the Port Sanitary Inspectors to secure improvement in the rat-proofing of ships where harbourage is found on inspection, but, except in the cases of those ships based on the Port, very few opportunities arise for improvement of structures owing to the very short stay in port of the ships.





Table E.

Rodents destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports

Category	Number
Black rats .....	Nil
Brown rats .....	Nil
Species not known ...	Nil
Sent for examination .	Nil
Infected with Plague .	Nil

The number of rats destroyed during the year in warehouses etc., on the Quays was 96.

Table F.

Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year for ships from foreign ports.

No. of Deratting Certificates issued.					Number of Deratting Exemption Cert's Issued	Total Cert's Issued
N.C.H.	Other Fumigant (State Method)	After Trapping	After Poisoning	Total		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	11	11

Rodent Control Certificates.

During the year 9 Rodent Control Certificates were issued to coastal ships operating regularly in the port.





# XIII. INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR NUISANCES.

Table G.

## Inspection and Notices.

Nature and Number of Inspections.	Notices served		Result of Serving Notices.
	Statutory Notices	Other Notices	
Routine Inspections ... 204	-	8	Abated - 6 Outstanding when ship left - 2
Re-inspections . 23	-	-	-
Re water supplies 19	-	1	Tanks cleaned and chlorinated. Subsequent samples satisfactory.
Infectious Diseases -	-	-	-
Searches by Rodent Officer. 19	-	-	-
Total. 265	-	9	-

## XIV. PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELL FISH) REGULATIONS, 1934 and 1948.

Shell-fish fishing is carried on commercially in the harbour on a small scale, although the takings continue to diminish each year.

During 1953 commercial takings of shellfish were - cockles 434 cwt, periwinkles 518 cwt. Mussels are practically extinct.

The commercial fishermen mainly operate in the southern and western parts of the harbour areas which routine sampling during the past five years has shown to be remarkably free from serious pollution.

Members of the general public frequently gather cockles from the developed and more built-up northern and eastern shores of the harbour where occasional pollution is more likely during periods of heavy rainfall owing to the presence of several sewer storm-water overflows. No

prohibited area has been prescribed in the harbour but observation is being maintained on these shores to determine the extent of pollution involved. During 1953 17 samples of cockles were obtained for bacteriological examination from these areas; 11 showed no faecal coli present in 1 ml of shell-fish, 3 contained one faecal coli per 1 ml, two contained two faecal coli in 1 ml, and one contained 44 faecal coli in 1 ml.

The oyster fishing industry finished in the harbour about 1935, but in 1951 the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Experimental Station, Conway, laid some 10,000 oysters in South Deep, Main Channel and Wareham Channel. A further 4,500 were laid by a private firm in Wych Channel





These layings are experimental but it is understood that so far the results have been encouraging and small quantities of oysters are now being dredged and sent to Whitstable for purification in tanks before marketing.

\* XV. MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS.

Not applicable.

\* XVI. MISCELLANEOUS.

No change.

Pollution of the Harbour.

In conjunction with the Chief Fishery Officer of the Southern Seas Fisheries District, efforts are being continued to trace all sources of chemical pollution of the harbour. A number of sources are known and these are being sampled regularly to determine if the discharges are inimical to fish life.

